10/17/78

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AR216

October 17, 1978

Dear Mr. DiSuvero:

Patricia Derian has asked me to respond to your letter of September 27 about the reported disappearance of Mireya Ester Rojo from Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires.

We have requested our Embassy in Buenos Aires to raise this case with the Foreign Office Working Group of the Government of Argentina and we will forward to you any information we receive.

We have been deeply concerned about the large number of disappearances and detainees in Argentina, and repeatedly have expressed these concerns to the Government at the highest levels.

We also have taken a number of actions to convey to the Argentines how strongly committed we are to human rights -- grant military training has been withdrawn, arms sales have been held back, and we have linked our vote in the International Financial Institutions to the Argentine record on human rights. We have clearly indicated that an improvement in human rights practices is essential to good bilateral relations. Indeed, the Congress has legislated, as part of the Foreign Assistance Act, that, beginning October 1, there will be no new arms transfers to Argentina without major human rights improvements.

Sincerely,

Roberta Cohen
Human Rights Officer

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as __ () Extend as __ () Downgrade to __
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason ____

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